

June 2008

Custer County - Idaho

Wildland/Urban Interface Fire Mitigation Plan

Appendices

June 2008

**USDA-Forest Service, Salmon-Challis National Forest,
Sawtooth National Recreation Area and USDI-Bureau of Land
Management
Custer County Fuels Reduction Projects
In conjunction with the National Fire Plan**

Appendix 1

USDA-Forest Service, Salmon-Challis National Forest Custer County Fuels Reduction Projects In conjunction with the National Fire Plan

Projects in Progress:

Garden Creek Fuels Reduction – As discussed with the County Commissioners, the Challis City Council and water users, this project was initiated to conduct management in Challis's municipal watershed. The Garden Creek Fuels Reduction Project is now ongoing and prescribed burns have been initiated under management conditions to remove and lessen fuels in the higher elevations and steeper portions of the watershed and thinning has begun on the lower portions of the drainage closer to private land. Slash created will be piled and burned. Both commercial and noncommercial mechanical treatments are being conducted to remove smaller ladder fuels from the dense timber stands. This project is 5% complete.

Basin Creek Prescribed Burn - Continue treating the landscape with prescribed fire from Basin Creek to Basin Butte Lookout including Sunday, Copper and Elkhorn Creeks just down river from Lower Stanley to reduce ground and ladder fuels. This project is 80% complete.

NE Stanley Interface – As requested by the County, continue treating bug infested timber stands northeast of Lower Stanley by salvaging dead trees and prescribe burning between cut stands to create fuels reduction areas capable of lessening chance of a crown fire moving towards Stanley. This project is 75% completed.

Eddy Basin Prescribed Burn – Continue reintroducing fire under management conditions to a fire dependent landscape in the Eddy Creek drainage west of Challis Idaho. A project suggested during the Challis Creek watershed analysis to continue creating a secondary firebreak west of Challis. This project is 5% completed.

Herd Creek Prescribed Burn – Continue prescribed burns the upper reaches of Taylor, McDonald and East Pass Creek in the East Fork of the Salmon. A project suggested in the East Fork of the Salmon River watershed analysis which is 83% completed.

Harden Loop Salvage – An ongoing project to continue addressing the dead and dying insect and disease infested vegetated stands between the Yankee Fork of the Salmon River drainage and Banner Summit as requested by the County in the original Fire Mitigation Plan. The project will remove, by mechanical means, dead, dying and vulnerable trees and treat the slash created.

Projects slated for the near future (1 - 5 yrs):

Capehorn Road Fuels Reduction – A thinning and salvage proposal to continue removing dead and vulnerable lodgepole pine along the Capehorn road and around private land at Capehorn, Blind Boundary, and the historic Camp Bradley boyscout camp. This project supplements the Sawtooth's Red Tree project as the mountain pine beetle infestation migrates west through Capehorn. A proposed commercial removal project.

Custer Townsite Fuels Reduction - A fuels reduction project to address two forested areas up-wind from Custer. The two stands will be thinned to lessen crown density and resulting slash will be piled and burned. The purpose of this project is to keep a crown fire from running through the stands towards Custer. The historic townsite receives 30,000 visitors per year. NEPA complete.

Lo-elly/Thatcher Fuels Reduction – A fuels reduction thinning project to work on the egress and ingress of three developed campgrounds in the Capehorn area. With the bug infestation and chance of a wildfire, the project proposes to address the dense stands of lodgepole pine by mechanically thinning along the access roads. As proposed, trees will be removed commercially.

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White Knob Fuels Reduction – A fuels reduction project in and surrounding the municipal watershed for Mackay. Fuels and Stand data has been collected and projects are being developed to address the dense stands of timber, decadent sagebrush, and areas with excessive dead and down fuels on the ground. It is expected that there will be thinning done with commercial and non-commercial methods and other areas prescribe burned under management conditions.

PICO Salvage – A fuels reduction thinning through salvage logging of beetle killed trees in the area between Sunbeam and Stanley. This was one of the areas in the original Custer County Fire Mitigation Plan where the Forest Service was requested to treat the Red Tree problem. Slash created from the tree removal activity would be treated to lessen down and dead fuel loadings.

Morgan Creek Wild – A fuels reduction project in the Morgan Creek drainage that will treat landscapes near and abutting private land. There will also be some treatment along the Morgan Creek road. Prescribed burning will occur and thinning both commercially and non-commercially is planned. The stands being treated primarily are stands of aspen and dead and dying lodgepole pine.

Bonanza Fuels Reduction – A fuels reduction project around the town site of Bonanza, the West Fork subdivision, the Bonanza Guard Station, the Bonanza Group camping site and the Volunteer group living area at Bonanza. The Potato wildfire showed how vulnerable this area is with all the dead lodgepole pine surrounding the historical site. Lodgepole pine stands would be thinned by commercial sale and the resulting slash piled and burned by the Forest Service when conditions are in prescription.

North Fork of the Big Lost Fuels Reduction – A fuels reduction project to treat dying aspen and lodgepole pine stands in the North Fork of the Big Lost River drainage. The stands would be thinned and resulting slash treated either with a broadcast prescribed burn or piled and burned.

Upper Yankee Fork Prescribed Burn – A fuels and tree reduction project planned to break up the continuous stands of primarily dead and dying lodgepole pine along the ridge between the Custer Motorway and Trapper Creek in the wilderness. The stands have dead lodgepole pine crisscrossed on the ground under standing dead and dying lodgepole pine and subalpine fir.

Sawmill Wildlife Thinning Project – A wildlife and fuels project to improve an aspen stand by removing competition from conifers and lessen chance a wildfire would move through the aspen stand. Pure aspen stands under many conditions can act as a natural fire barrier.

John Fowler
South Zone Fuel Specialist, Salmon-Challis National Forest

May 7, 2008

USDA-Forest Service, Sawtooth National Recreation Area Custer County Fuels Reduction Projects

North Zone Structures:

Planning for this project will be initiated in the fall of 2008. The intent of the project is to reduce wildfire threat to recreation residences, resorts and organizational camps on the SNRA. Additionally, a few individual homes that have not had treatment near them may be incorporated. We will continue the fuel reduction projects around clusters of homes and subdivisions.

Planning to increase prescribed fire program to begin restoring fire adapted ecosystems within Custer County and to lessen the chance of large undesirable wildfires moving from Non-WUI into WUI areas. An example of this will be the East Fork Prescribed Burn.

**Bureau of Land Management, Challis Field Office
Custer County Fuels Reduction Projects
In conjunction with Custer County and the National Fire Plan
2008 Update**

Projects in Progress:

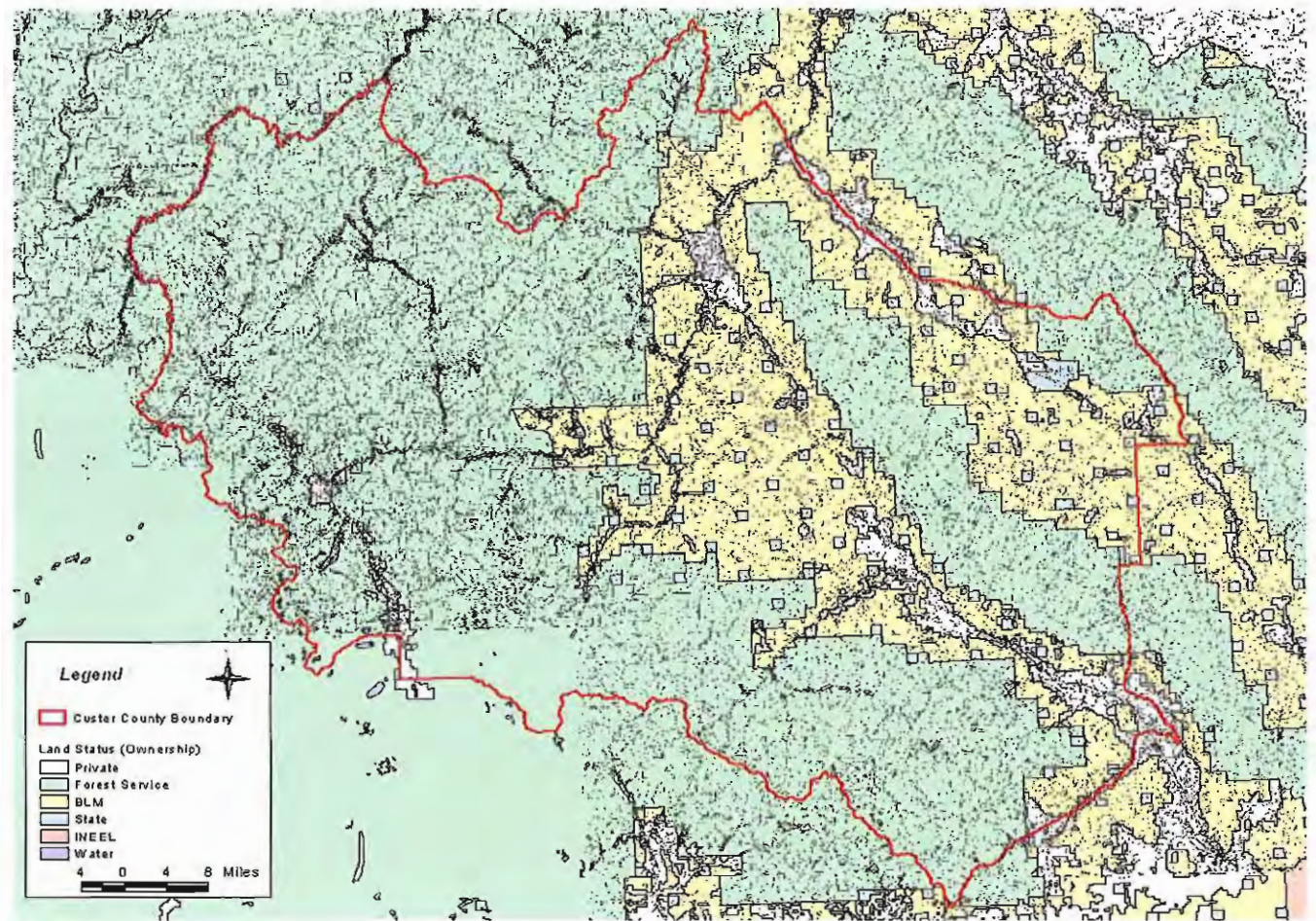
- 1) **Noxious weed treatments-** BLM will continue to treat noxious weeds in WUI and non-WUI areas in conjunction with the CWMAs. This will prevent establishment of flashy fuels (ie: cheatgrass) which could increase risk of fire.
- 2) **Cheatgrass reseeding-** Projects will be to reseed areas that are or may become cheatgrass dominated sites in order to reduce or prevent hazardous fuels.
- 3) **Morgan Creek Project-** Multiple year project. Involves lop and scatter of conifer encroachment, thinning of timber stands through sales or stewardship contracts and use of prescribed fire to reduce hazardous fuels. This project is 10% complete.
- 4) **Aspen Maintenance** – Improvement of aspen stands by removing competing conifers. May involve sale of wood products, lop and scatter or girdling. Ongoing project occurring across the field office.
- 5) **Birch Creek Burn-** Wildlife habitat improvement of the Birch Creek drainage through prescribed burning. This project is 80% complete.

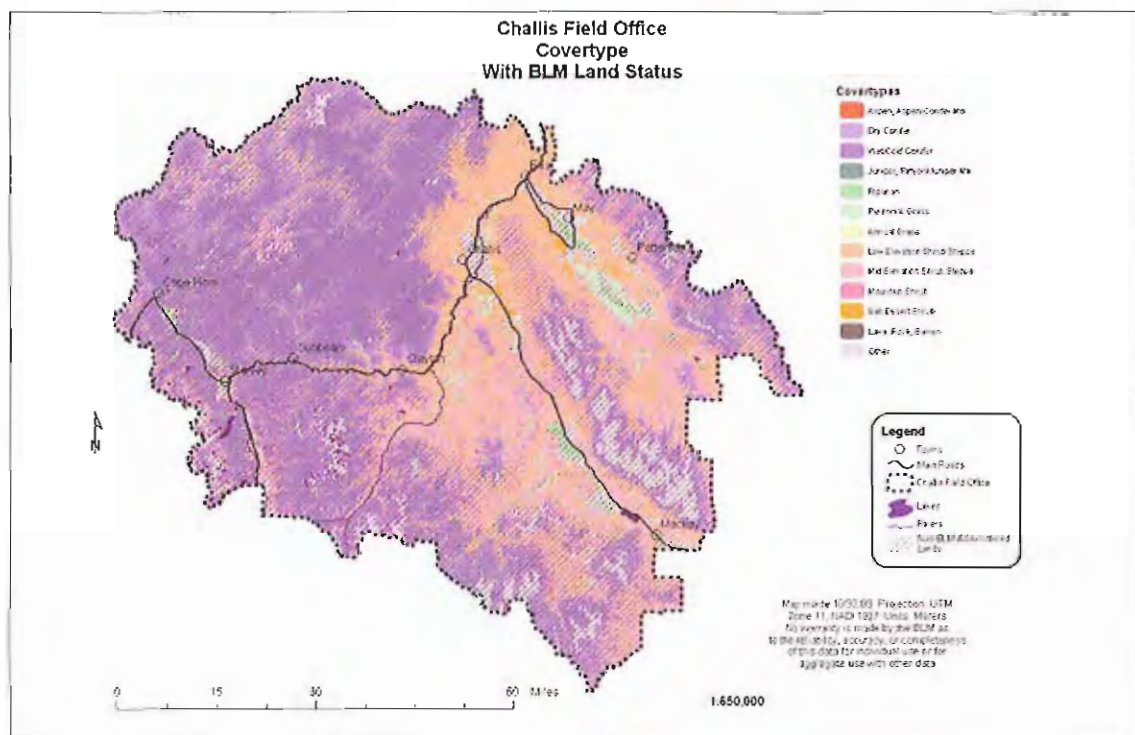
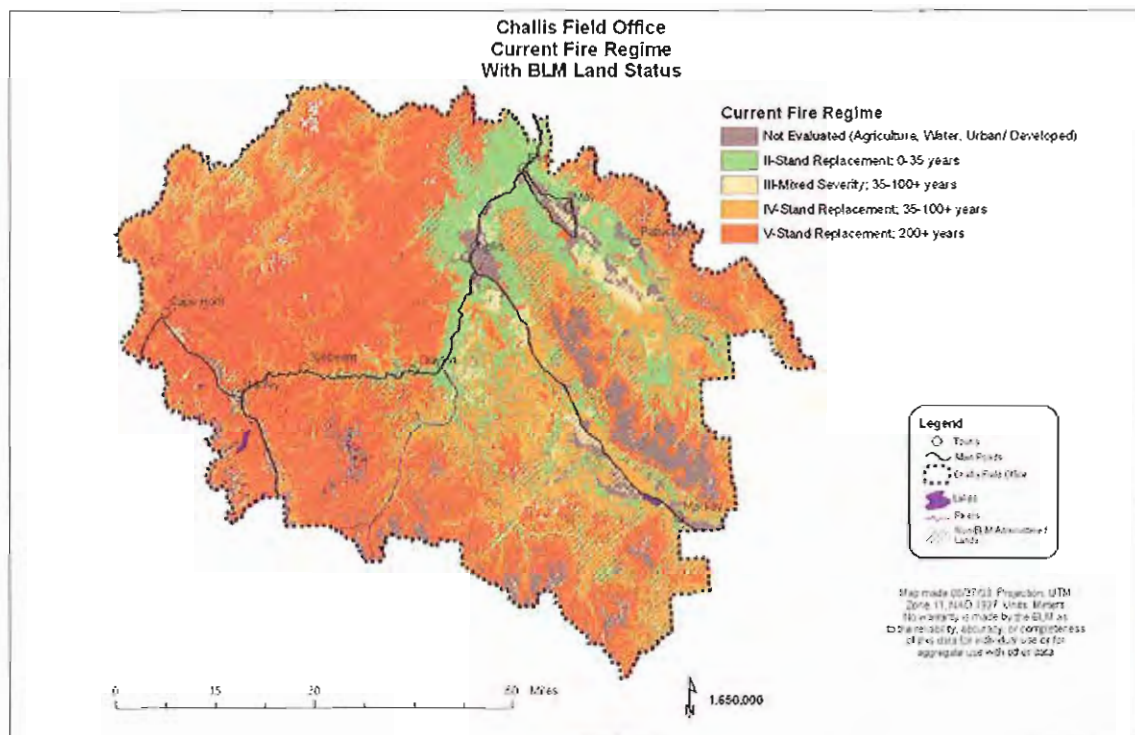
Projects Proposed:

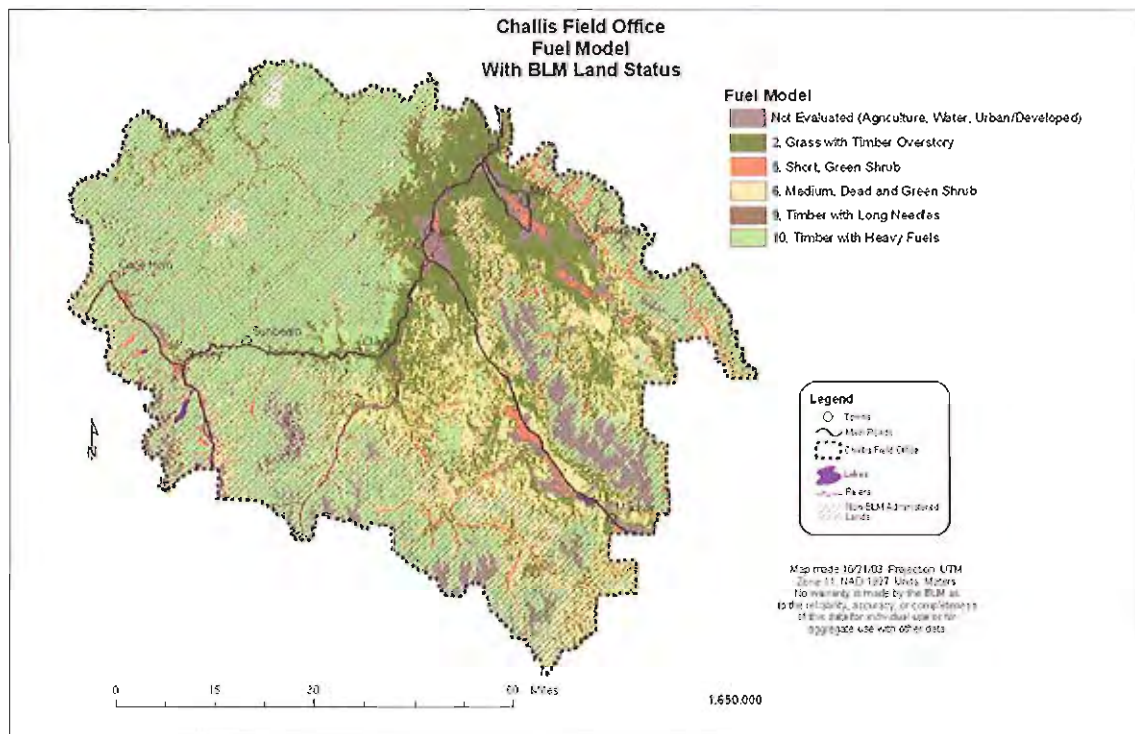
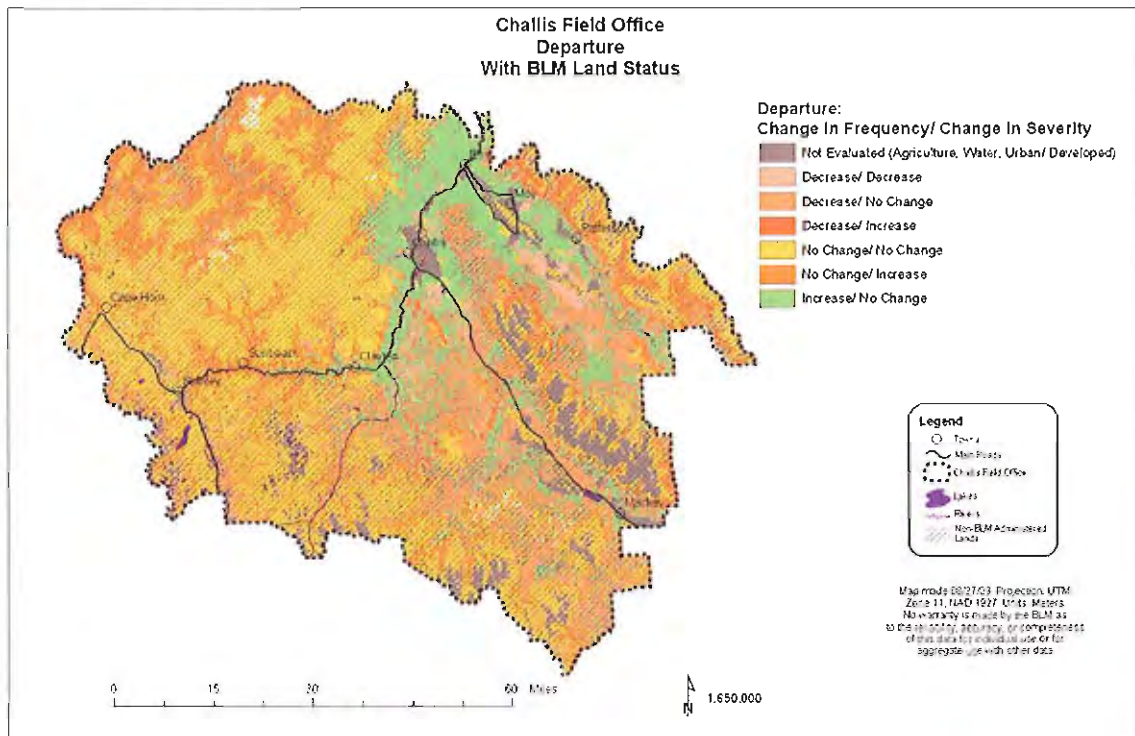
- 1) **Poverty Flat** – Whitebark pine improvement project. Involves thinning and/or burning to reduce competition.
- 2) **Sage Steppe Improvement-** Crushing of decadent sagebrush to increase perennial grass cover and young sagebrush. Sage grouse habitat improvement. Proposed projects in the Pahsimeroi and Big Lost.
- 3) **Donkey Hills Thinning and Prescribed burn** – Thinning and or burning of forested sites in the Donkey Hills to reduce hazardous fuels and promote forest health.
- 4) **Double Springs Grouse Thinning-** Reduction of hazardous fuels in the Grouse Creek area of the Pahsimeroi Valley.
- 5) **Kinnikinic/Squaw Creek Project-** Involves thinning and/or burning to promote aspen restoration. May produce commercial products.

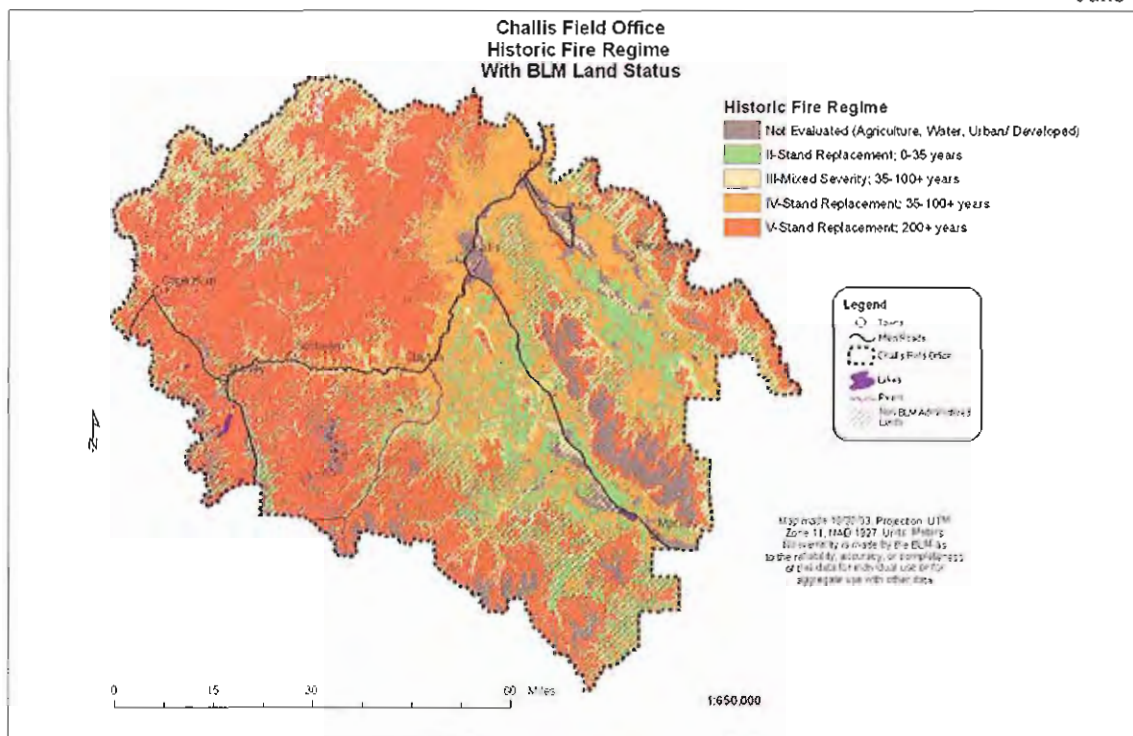
Appendix 2

Maps

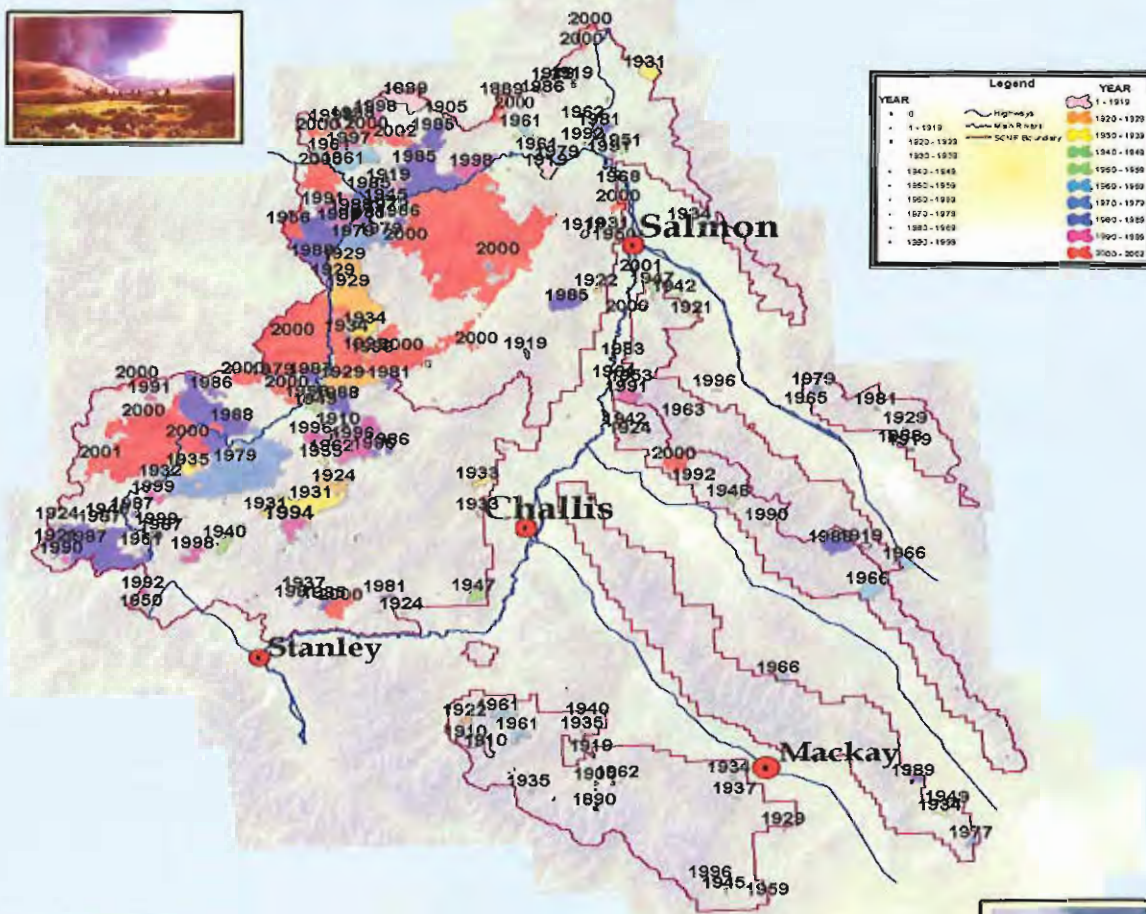








Fire History of the Salmon-Challis National Forest 1919 - 2002



FIRE HISTORY DATA

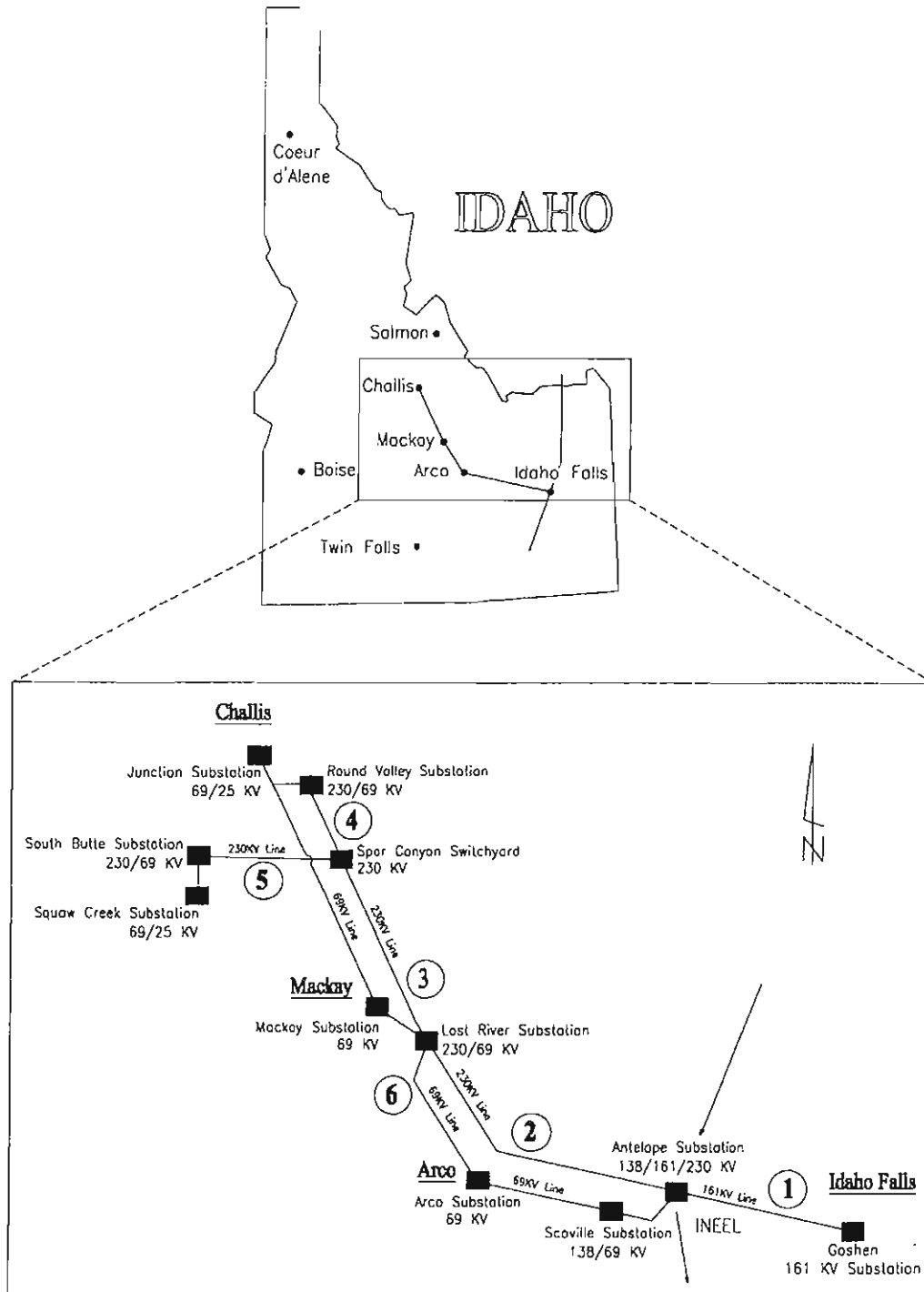
This map depicts the occurrence of wildfires in the Salmon-Challis National Forest. Many fires have occurred in the past century, but only those that are recorded in the National Fire History are shown. The map is based on the National Fire History data, which is the most comprehensive record of wildfires in the United States. The map is not a scale model, but a representation of the fire history data. The map is based on the National Fire History data, which is the most comprehensive record of wildfires in the United States. The map is not a scale model, but a representation of the fire history data.

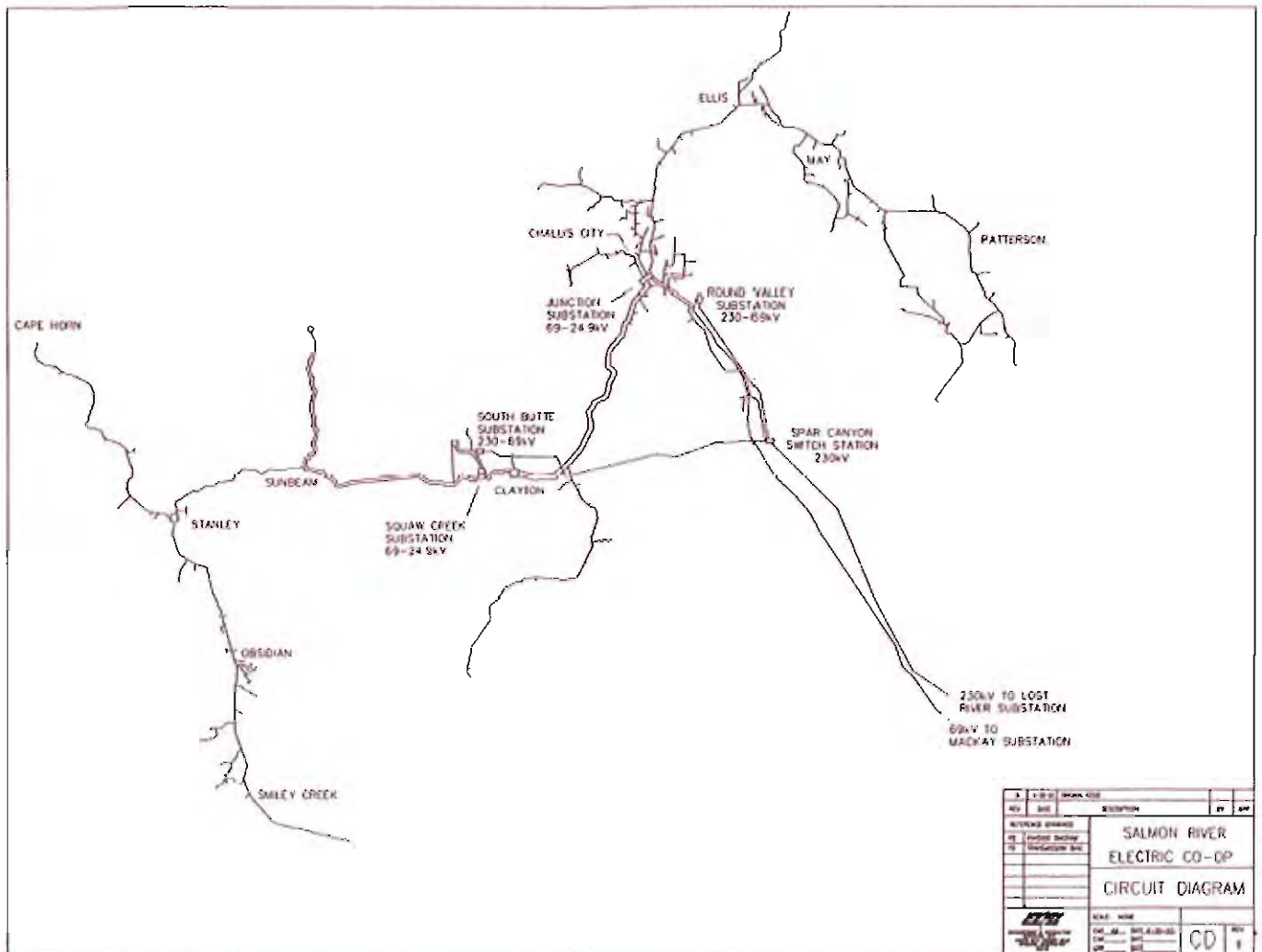
"ALL LINES APPROXIMATE"

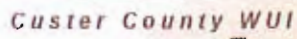


0 5 10 20 30 40 Miles









APPENDIX A: CWPP Addendum For County Wildland Fire Interagency Groups

This template may be used by County Wildland Fire Interagency Groups in order to more clearly express their priorities for hazardous fuels treatments, firefighting assistance, or other needs related to the National Fire Plan. Although the form is not required, **those County Working Groups that choose to submit this document will receive priority consideration for competitive grant and assistance funding programs.** This document provides your County Working Group with the opportunity to provide direct input into the process used to determine how National Fire Plan funds are distributed. If your Working Group would like to provide more project detail, you may attach additional sheets to this form or create your own document.

You may submit this document by mail or e-mail to:

Idaho State Fire Plan Working Group
c/o Idaho Department of Lands
Bureau of Fire Management
3780 Industrial Avenue South
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815
sschedler@idl.idaho.gov

A. County Working Group Membership

Please list the members of your County Working Group who were involved in this decision making process including their affiliation and job title (if necessary):

Coordinator: Doug Hammond - Custer County Disaster Coordinator

Other Members: Wayne Butts - Custer County Commissioner

Lin Hintze - Custer County Commissioner

Cliff Hansen - Custer County Commissioner

Randy Ivie - City of Mackay Fire Chief

Launna Gunderson - Challis Fire Chief

Andy Gunderson - Sawtooth Valley Rural Fire Department

Patrick Gannon - Thompson Creek Mine & Challis Fire & EMS

John Fowler - USFS, Salmon-Challis NF

Leigh Redick - BLM, Challis Field Office

Matt Filbert - USFS, Sawtooth NF

Pete Isner - Stanley PD

Bill Blount - USFS, SCF

Will Marcroft - USFS, SCF

B. Hazardous Fuels Treatments, Non Federal Lands

Please provide a list of hazardous fuels treatment projects that your group would like to see conducted on *private* lands. There is room available to include five projects, but you may provide more if you would like. Projects should be delineated by a specific boundary (i.e. subdivision, community, or watershed; simply stating "the eastern portion of the county" would not be specific enough). **This list of priorities may be changed at any time as projects are completed or as conditions warrant.**

Example: Castle Mountain Creeks Subdivision (adjacent to Garden Mountain BLM project, already completed)

1. Challis Area - Garden Creek City limits to Chipmunk Ski Hill
2. Challis Area - South Avenue from Hy 93 to 7th st.
3. Mackay Area- Big Lost River, Mackay Dam South to Smelter Rd. bridge.
4. Mackay Area -Big Lost river, Houston Rd. South to Grey bridge on 4100 North
5. _____

C. Hazardous Fuels Treatments, Federal Lands

Please provide a list of hazardous fuels treatment projects your group would like to see conducted on *federal* lands. For projects conducted within the wildland urban interface (WUI), it may be appropriate to include the adjacent community or subdivision. However, it is also appropriate to include those federal projects outside the WUI. **This list of priorities may be changed at any time as projects are completed or as conditions warrant.**

1. Custer Fuels Reduction (WUI)
2. Capehorn Road Fuels Reduction (Red Tree Project) (WUI)
3. Continuation of Garden Creek Fuels Reduction (Municipal Watershed)
4. White Knob Fuels Reduction (Municipal Watershed)
5. PICO Salvage (Red Tree Project)

D. Firefighting Assistance Funds

Please provide a list of firefighting needs for fire departments within your county. The list may include tangible resources like fire trucks and hoses, safety or communications equipment like Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and radios, as well as training and assistance with the creation of new fire districts. The purpose of this list is to create better awareness of resource needs within the county and to better allocate resources between various grant and assistance programs at the state level. Even though the needs of a number of different fire departments or districts are to be listed here, **the needs of each fire department or district will be evaluated independently.** If fire entities are unable to develop a countywide priority list, they may list the priorities of each department or district separately. **This list of priorities may be changed at any time as projects are completed or as conditions warrant.**

Example:

1. Creation of a new fire district in a rural portion of the county.
2. Equipment for fire districts #1 and #2
3. New fire house for district #4

1. Challis - Combined City and Rural Fire Hall with room for Ambulances and State or Federal Apparatus
2. Challis, Stanley & Mackay - Surface Water Supply Equipment which would include Suction Hoses, Supply Hoses, Portable Pumps and Dump Tanks
3. Challis, Stanley & Mackay - Water Tenders and Water Tenders with internal Pumps
4. Challis, Stanley & Mackay - Wildland PPE & Next Generation Shelters
5. Mackay - Regional Training Facility for Wildland and Structure Fires
6. Challis & Mackay - Compressed Air Foam Systems for Wildland Fire Fighting

7. Challis, Stanley & Mackay - Underground water Storage tanks at locations with no surface water close and easily assessable. Dry Hydrants at surface water locations with limited access to include locations in Lemhi County covered by North Custer Fire Protection District.
8. Challis, Stanley & Mackay -Communication system that all three departments can use when giving or receiving mutual aid and outside resources can use when assisting local departments.
9. South Custer - Expand apparatus bay on Leslie Station.
10. South Custer - Expand apparatus bay on Bartlet Pt. Station.

Please attach another sheet if necessary.

E. Other prioritization needs (optional)

What other needs do you have within your county? Any type of program not covered above may be included here such as homeowner education, a WUI Coordinator, adoption of WUI codes or ordinances, Federal Excess Personal Property (FEPP) requests, etc.

1. Challis, Stanley & Mackay - Open burning Ordinance for Custer County
2. Challis, Stanley & Mackay - Emergency warning system for rural locations to aid in mass alerts and evacuations.
3. Challis, Stanley & Mackay - WUI Public Education
4. Challis, Stanley & Mackay - Custer County Zoning to limit future problems
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____

F. WUI Map

If your working group has made any changes to your wildland urban interface (WUI) map, please include a copy of the map (e-mail preferred to sschedler@idl.idaho.gov).

G. Document Prepared by:

Name: Doug Hammond

Title: Custer County Disaster Coordinator